

# KENTUCKY RIVER SENIOR HEALTH DAY 2005

*A designated*

*White House Conference on Aging Event*

**June 22, 2005**

**Hazard Community College, Hazard, Kentucky**

## **POST-EVENT SUMMARY REPORT**

**Number of Persons Attending:** 400

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Kentucky River Area Development District, Southeastern Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Kentucky Association on Gerontology (KAG), and AARP

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## **PRIORITY ISSUE #1: SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE/MEDICAID**

### SERVICES:

- Information & Education

### BARRIERS:

- Medicare premiums will increase if not taken initially

### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:

- Look at economic issues as a package for seniors
- Change or amend the law in order for the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices
- Lower cost of drugs
- Leave Social Security and Medicare alone
- Require Congressman to pay into Social Security. Bring all groups into Social Security deductions
- Don't allow Congress to spend Social Security money at their discretion
- Create a cap on prescription drug fees or co-pays

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*Kentucky River Area Development District*

*917 Perry Park Road Hazard, Ky 41701*

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- Optional Private Accounts
- Knowing how to advocate or speak up for yourself

## ***PRIORITY ISSUE #2: TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES***

### **SERVICES:**

- Transportation to grocery shopping
- Improved winter/snow removal
- Expand Family Caregiver Funds
- Expand access to athletic equipment
- Increase funding for social services, i.e. transportation costs
- Increase access to legal services
- Improve information and assistance

### **BARRIERS:**

- Limited funding
- Travel difficulties, unique to rural areas, especially mountainess counties
- Limited transportation in rural areas
- Limited funding , all areas
- Lack of awareness for aging needs, stereotyping seniors

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## **PROPOSED SOLUTIONS:**

- More vehicles equipped for emergency needs during inclement weather
- Review and consider changing funding formulas for aging and disabled transportation services to be more equitable to rural communities
- Recruit more volunteer drivers to reduce staffing cost
- Federal support for innovative public transportation routes to serve rural areas
- Increase funding, funding, funding!!!
- Enhance & expand workforce (to staff aging services programs)
- Increase Medicaid eligibility (as it relates to resources)
- Expand Homecare Services, state & federal
- Expansion of transportation services, i.e. "roving van"

## ***PRIORITY ISSUE #3: ELDER ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH & AGING/LIVING WILLS***

### **SERVICES:**

- Education
- Transportation
- Basic Information & Explanation on an Understandable Level
- Friendly Visitors – for assessment & services
- Promote Cultural Experiences
- Counseling & One Stop Shops
- Uplifting Events

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## BARRIERS:

- Transportation
- Cost of Medication
- Lack of Coverage
- Funding & Resources

## SOLUTIONS:

- Seniors come together in programs
- More activities
- Fun things
- Stronger laws re-predatory lending
- Need more Housing & Support while living in the home
- Roads for improved transportation
- Financing for low-income housing
- Allow pets in public housing – make it affordable
- Provide more resources for seniors food, etc.
- More information regarding local services
- Have the President come visit the area
- Stop the war & send the boys home
- More affordable or coverage for DME